



## **Hood Canal Dissolved Oxygen Program (HCDOP) Monthly Update** **January 2006**

### **Next HCDOP meeting**

- *When/where*
  - **February 14, 12:30 to 3:30, PSAT office Olympia**
- *Proposed agenda items for the next meeting*
  - Setting up a group interested in participating in the 2006 EPA Targeted Watersheds grant proposal. (Christensen, HCCC)
  - Bob Simmons or Emily Piper give a briefing on Hood Canal Watershed Education Network (HCWEN) work plans (from minutes 1/10/06, Criss, PSAT)
  - Josh Baldi will follow up with Tom Eaton on Webb Hill work and report back to the group. (From minutes 1/10/06, Criss, PSAT)

### **Scientific Studies**

- *Project update*
  - The Integrated Assessment and Modeling (IAM) program held a Science Workshop on January 20 at the Applied Physics Lab at the University of Washington (APL-UW) from 9 am-5 pm. Forty-three scientists and observers attended. Goals of the workshop were to identify: Results and implications (What do we know?); Questions and information gaps (What do we need to know?); Priority actions for Year 2 (What should we do?). This work was done within individual breakout sessions for Marine, Watershed and Biota. Reconvening in the afternoon, the groups shared the information and discussed overall recommendations and issues. A detailed write-up of the IAM Science Workshop will be posted on the UW-HCDOP website following review by workshop participants (anticipated within a month). (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - HCDOP IAM Co-Managers met with Data Management team members from UW and Paladin on January 27 to discuss data management needs for Year 2. All agreed to establish a Data Management Working Group that was announced at the All Hands Meeting. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - The fourth Quarterly Meeting of the HCDOP IAM Study was held on January 31 at APL-UW from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Minutes of the meeting are posted at the UW-HCDOP website (<http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu>) and summarize the key updates of the IAM Study. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - At the Quarterly Meeting, the HCDOP IAM Co-Managers Hannafious and Newton presented the process for planning the budget for Year 2 IAM activities. See Minutes for details. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - To define Year 2 work within the Biota Task, the HCDOP IAM Study is soliciting proposals regarding Hood Canal hypoxia and biota. Proposals must address the charge for the Biota task of the HCDOP IAM study and be submitted

according to the guidelines, posted on the website. Proposal guidelines can be downloaded at <http://www.hoodcanal.washington.edu/news-docs/publications.jsp> Proposals should be submitted to Jan via e-mail at [newton@apl.washington.edu](mailto:newton@apl.washington.edu), by 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2006. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)

- An IAM Modeling Workshop will be held on February 6, 2006, from 1-4 pm at the University of Washington Marine Science Building Room 123. The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss hypotheses to be tested and whether the models include the “right” processes to support hypothesis testing, and to identify information gaps. This meeting will involve UW, USGS, and Ecology modelers and is being organized by Mindy Roberts (Ecology) on behalf of the HCDOP IAM Co-Managers. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
- Gary Turney (USGS) chaired a follow-up meeting of the Onsite Sewage Subcommittee, which led to the development of a one page project outline and proposed budget for new nitrogen transport and fate studies. Dave Christensen (HCCC) presented it to the Select Committee on Hood Canal on January 26. Rep. Maralyn Chase has offered a bill, HB 3287, which will provide funding for the proposed work. The bill was heard on February 2. (Hull and Fagergren, PSAT; Christensen, HCCC).
- Mason County Department of Health Services (MCDHS) is now sampling ten locations, including Hamma Hamma, for dissolved oxygen, nutrients, fecal coliform bacteria levels. They are now eleven months into the freshwater monitoring component. (Book, MCDHS)

### **Corrective Actions**

- *Project update*
  - Landowners in Paradise Bay Community have pledged more than \$15,000 to hire an engineering firm for cost feasibility/preliminary engineering design. HCCC will be assisting with interviews with engineering consultants in February. (Christensen, HCCC)
  - Based on the interest level of landowners and their geographic distribution along Landon and the Northshore Road, HCCC may be pursuing three cluster systems of 10-12 connections instead of one system of 30-40 connections. (Christensen, HCCC)
  - Construction of the Five Star cluster project is complete; a B-Line recirculating gravel filter system was installed at the Hungry Bear Restaurant on US 101 in north Mason County. One additional filter system is needed to complete all of the onsite sewage system demonstration projects. (Hull, PSAT).
  - Met with the interagency state (and EPA) Hood Canal team several times to discuss status of funded projects, with follow-up meetings with Emmett Dobey, Community Development Director of Mason County on progress made on Hoodport to Skokomish River and Belfair and North Shore sewerage projects, in light of the departure of key county staff, Doug Micheau. (Fagergren and Glasoe, PSAT)
  - Met with the state interagency Hood Canal team and Mason County contractors, O’Neil and Associates (Art O’Neil, Mike Sharar, and Linda Hoffman) to brief

- them on the status of sewerage and onsite programs in the county, and next steps to get the (delayed) projects back on track. (Fagergren and Glasoe, PSAT)
- Met with John Bolender, Mason Conservation District, to discuss several funding issues: 1) sequencing of funds for different phases of the anaerobic digester project (and followed up with an e-mail to Jim Cahill, OFM); 2) funding ideas for the Skokomish salt marsh restoration project, with special reference to the Puget Sound and Adjacent Waters (PSAW) and Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) funds and possible application for relocating the Public Utility District (PUD) 1 power poles and transmission lines (and subsequently talked to Bernie Hargrave, US Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and Tim Smith (WDFW) about this); 3) concepts for a meeting between the shellfish industry, the Skokomish Tribe, the Mason Conservation District, and Washington Sea Grant Program for a cooperative series of shellfish restoration/culture projects in the canal (Fagergren, PSAT)
  - Met with Lalena Amiotte and Keith Dublanica of the Skokomish Tribe related to their salmon carcass-composting project (Fagergren, PSAT)
  - Mason County's Hood Canal Pollution Identification and Correction Project (HCPIC): Our sampling schedule will rev up in February and kick in to high gear in April. The dye trace that began in November was inconclusive and will be repeated in the summer season when there are more occupants. The HCPIC team has been writing the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), assessing nutrient sampling, continuing parcel identification along the Hood Canal, and entering data collected into the database. We are still working out logistics, so that our sample results will be comparable with the Kitsap County data. (Book, MCDHS)

#### Public education and outreach updates

- **Outreach**
  - HCCC staff presented an overview of Hood Canal activities at the Seabeck Community Association quarterly meeting on January 17. (Christensen, HCCC)
  - Debbie Riley will be presenting information on the Shellfish Protection District in a public Mason County Commissioners meeting on February 14 at 9:30 am in the Commissioners' chambers in Shelton. This public meeting will be on drafting a resolution to set the Shellfish Protection district boundaries for the Annas Bay area. (Piper, HCWEN)
  - Jan Newton lectured to Dr. Mike Brett's Civil Engineering Lake & Watershed Management class on Hood Canal and factors involved in the hypoxia on January 30. Other lecturers from HCDOP include Tony Paulson (USGS) and Terry Hull (PSAT). (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
  - Jan Newton gave a public lecture in Highline Community College's "Science on the Sound" speakers series re "Hood Canal and Puget Sound: Oceanography, Human Development and Hypoxia" on Saturday, February 4 at noon at their Marine and Science Technology Center (MaST). (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Upcoming meeting notices/speaking engagements*
  - The next HCCC Board meeting is on February 15 from 1:30-4:30 at the Oyster Bay Restaurant in Bremerton. Directions can be found on our website at:

[http://www.hccc.wa.gov/Downloads/Downloads\\_GetFile.aspx?id=127651&fd=0](http://www.hccc.wa.gov/Downloads/Downloads_GetFile.aspx?id=127651&fd=0)  
(Christensen, HCCC)

- The next HCWEN meeting is set for March 30, 2006 at the Kitsap SSWM Stormwater Annex Conference Room from 1-4pm. (Piper, HCWEN)
- Jan Newton will present a poster at the Ocean Sciences Meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
- Duane Fagergren, Dan Hannafious and Jan Newton have been asked to contribute to the UW Oceanography's class "Puget Sound Ecosystem" on March 7. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)

### **Funding**

- *Funding now available*
  - Congressman Norm Dicks has confirmed that \$1.8 million has been secured for the HCDOP IAM Year 2 activity. We anticipate the final amount to be reduced by an as yet undetermined amount. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
- *Upcoming funding opportunities*
  - HCCC anticipates leading another submission for the EPA Targeted Watersheds proposal. Based on the timing last year, we anticipate that it will be due around the first of May. This is both a funding opportunity and a funding need, as there will need to be a 25% match from state and local sources. (Christensen, HCCC)

### **Legislative or Congressional action or briefings**

- *Hood Canal Related Bills – status 02/06/06 (Hull, PSAT)*

**ESHB 1883** Directs Evergreen State College to collect oral histories for Hood Canal. Passed the House and is now before the Gov Ops committee of the Senate. (This bill was introduced last session.).

**SHB 3039** Sets deadlines and requires Ecology permitted dischargers to provide nitrogen removal; sets separate deadlines, but requires both new and existing onsite sewage systems to address nitrogen removal. Currently is in House Rules Committee awaiting a second reading.

**HB 3142** Provides sales and use tax exemptions for equipment, materials, and labor associated with construction of onsite sewage systems within Aquatic Rehabilitation Zone 1 (Hood Canal watershed). Currently is in House Finance Committee, which has until tomorrow to move this bill.

**SHB 3199** Requires the Department of Natural Resources to conduct a pilot project to study the feasibility of planting geoducks on state aquatic lands. Currently in House Appropriations, which has until tomorrow to move this bill.

**SHB 3282** Establishes a separate fund for Hood Canal protection and restoration. No dedicated funding source was provided in the substitute. The bill was passed out of House Appropriations today and is awaiting scheduling for floor action.

**SHB 3287** Provides for the study of nitrogen fate and transport from onsite sewage systems to the marine waters of Hood Canal. The bill provided \$600,000 in funding, but this amount was apparently removed by the House Appropriations Committee as it moved the bill on February 4. It awaits scheduling for floor action.

- *Legislative contacts/meetings*

- Met with Jeff Olsen, lead staff with the HC House Select Committee, with Terry Hull and Dave Christensen to share ideas and suggest topics to cover in this session's briefings and hearings with the select committee. Testified to the committee on status and key findings of funded projects on behalf of the state agencies (with Terry Hull and Dave Christensen). (Fagergren, PSAT)
- HCCC briefed the House Select Committee on Hood Canal on January 12 and January 26. The HCCC updated the committee on progress in implementing the Hood Canal Rehabilitation Program, provided a document that detailed possible tax incentives for onsite sewage repairs/upgrades, and presented a proposal for more detailed groundwater study and determination of nitrogen loading from onsite sewage treatment systems. (Christensen, HCCC)
- Representative Eickmeyer's staff contacted Jan Newton regarding convening a panel to discuss future monitoring and study of the Canal beyond the federal commitment. A meeting date has yet to be determined but initial discussion among HCDOP partners is occurring. (Newton, UW; Hannafious, HCSEG)
- Met with Representative Chase, House Select Committee on HC, to discuss shellfish filtering, harvest practices, and the concept of "oysters in your front yard," which was raised by the Mason Conservation District as they presented on the anaerobic digester project. Arranged a meeting between Teri King, Washington Sea Grant Program, and Representative Chase after this meeting. (Fagergren, PSAT).
- Attended most of the twice-weekly Hood Canal Select Committee hearings (Fagergren, PSAT)

### Communications

- *Communications activities*

- Anne Criss, Toni Droscher, Duane Fagergren, Linda Farmer, and Mary Knackstedt (PSAT), Dave Christensen (HCCC) and Emily Piper (WSU/HCWEN) met on January 23 to develop a scope and timeframe for the Hood Canal electronic newsletter. (Criss, PSAT)
- Emily Piper is contacting potential groups to subscribe to the Hood Canal Newsletter and is working on article ideas. We hope to have the first issue out by mid-late February. For more information or article suggestions please contact Toni Droscher [tdroscher@psat.wa.gov](mailto:tdroscher@psat.wa.gov) or Emily Piper [elpiper@wsu.edu](mailto:elpiper@wsu.edu). (Piper, HCWEN)
- Anne Criss, Jan Newton, and Dan Hannafious are working to update the HCDOP contacts lists and will update the PSAT and UW – HCDOP websites and other documents.

- *Media contacts or requests*

- Talked to Chris Dunagan, Sun Newspaper, about potential for shellfish as filter feeders to assist in removing primary productivity, and the need for harvesting bivalves to maximize their ultimate benefit. (Fagergren, PSAT)

- *Media coverage*

**Lawmakers Target Septic Systems**

The Kitsap Sun

Christopher Dunagan

January 30, 2006

[http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN\\_19088\\_4426389,00.html](http://www.kitsapsun.com/bsun/local/article/0,2403,BSUN_19088_4426389,00.html)

**Geoduck bill puts divers on equal footing**

The Olympian (editorial)

January 30, 2006

<http://159.54.227.3/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060131/OPINION01/60131024/1005>